

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AF-10 ARA-10 CIAE-00
DODE-00 EA-07 EUR-12 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 IO-13
L-03 NASA-01 NEA-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02
PA-01 PRS-01 OES-07 SS-15 USIA-06 NRC-05 /138 W
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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9150

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PARM, CCD

SUBJ: CCD: WESTERN GROUP MEETING, JUL 13, 1977

REF: GENEVA 5516

1. SUMMARY: IN JULY 13 MEETING OF CCD WESTERN GROUP
(CANADA, FRG, ITALY, JAPAN, NETHERLANDS, UK, US), US GAVE
BRIEFING ON BILATERAL CHEMICAL WEAPONS (CW) DISCUSSIONS
WITH SOVIETS. GROUP DISCUSSED TACTICAL SITUATION WITH
REGARD TO CCD TREATMENT OF CW ISSUES, INCLUDING THE IDEA
OF AN EXPERTS GROUP, AN INTERIM US-SOVIET REPORT TO CCD
ON THEIR JOINING CW INITIATIVE, AND THE POSSIBILITY OF A
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WINTER CCD SESSION. GROUP ALSO ADDRESSED FORTHCOMING
INFORMAL MEETINGS ON NEW MASS DESTRUCTION WEAPONS (MDW),
ATTITUDE OF FRANCE TO CCD, AND SWEDISH PLANS FOR DISCUSSING
A CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE IN THE CONTEXT OF A COMPREHENSIVE
TEST BAN (CTB). END SUMMARY.

2. OPENING THE JULY 13 MEETING OF THE CCD WESTERN GROUP

(CANADA, FRG, ITALY, JAPAN, NETHERLANDS, UK, US), US REP (FISHER) BRIEFED ALLIES ON STATUS OF US-SOVIET BILATERAL MEETINGS RELATING TO CHEMICAL WEAPONS (CW), ON THE UK PROPOSAL TO CREATE AN EXPERTS GROUP TO CONSIDER DEFINITIONS OF CW AGENTS AND/OR TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF CW STOCKPILE DESTRUCTION, US REP (FISHER) SAID THIS WOULD IN REALITY HURT THE PROSPECTS FOR NEGOTIATING A CW BAN RATHER THAN HELP THEM. FROM THE POLITICAL POINT OF VIEW, EVEN EXCHANGES AMONG SCIENTIFIC EXPERTS WOULD TEND TO STIFFEN THE US AND USSR IN THEIR RESPECTIVE POSITIONS. FURTHER, IN PRACTICAL TERMS USG EXPERTISE ON CW IS STRETCHED VERY THIN THIS SUMMER, AND DURING THE INTERVALS BETWEEN US-SOVIET CONSULTATIONS US EXPERTS CAN BE MUCH MORE USEFUL WORKING IN WASHINGTON. ACCORDINGLY, THE US REP INDICATED, THE US WOULD OBJECT TO ESTABLISHMENT OF A CW EXPERTS GROUP OR WORKING GROUPS, AND SAID SOVIET OPPOSITION IS VERY STRONG ALSO. HOWEVER, US HAD PROPOSED TO SOVIET CO-CHAIRMAN SOME WAYS OF MAKING CCD AGENDA MORE FLEXIBLE: (1) BY NOTING THAT SUBJECT OF FORMATION OF AD HOC WORKING GROUPS COULD BE RAISED AT ANY TIME BY DELEGATIONS WHEN THEY THOUGHT IT APPROPRIATE AND (2) BY BROADENING THE SCOPE OF THE AUGUST 22 MEETINGS ON CW TO INCLUDE ORGANIZATIONAL AND PROCEDURAL MATTERS.

3. NETHERLANDS REP (VAN DER KLAUW) AND UK REP (ASHE) REGRETTED THAT AN EXPERTS GROUP COULD NOT BE CONVENED, BUT THE UK REP STATED HE WOULD NOT PRESS HIS PROPOSAL.
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FRG REP (SCHLAICH) SAID THAT THE UNAVAILABILITY OF EXPERTS IS A REAL PROBLEM, BUT THAT THE TOPICS THEY SUGGESTED COULD BE KEPT IN MIND FOR THE CW INFORMAL MEETINGS DURING THE WEEK OF AUGUST 22-26.

4. JAPANESE REP (OGISO) ASKED WHETHER THE US AND USSR COULD SUBMIT TO THE CCD AN INTERIM REPORT ON THEIR CW BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS, SO THAT CCD MIGHT SELECT OUT ISSUES AGREED UPON EARLY IN THE PROCESS (E.G., DEFINITIONS OF CW AGENTS AND SCOPE OF A CW BAN) AND CONDUCT FURTHER INFORMAL MEETINGS, CREATE AN EXPERTS GROUP, OR CREATE A WORKING GROUP, AS CONSIDERED APPROPRIATE. REPS OF CANADA (JAY) AND ITALY (DI BERNARDO) SAID THIS WOULD BE USEFUL, REDUCING THE PRESSURE FROM THE NON-ALIGNED. US REP (FISHER) REPLIED THAT THE SOVIETS DO NOT FAVOR ISSUING AN INTERIM REPORT, AND THAT BASED ON HIS EXPERIENCE DURING NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY (NPT) NEGOTIATIONS THEY ARE UNLIKELY TO WANT TO PRODUCE ANY OFFICIAL DOCUMENT UNTIL THE ENTIRE PACKAGE IS AGREED UPON.

5. NETHERLANDS REP (VAN DER KLAUW) REPORTED ON SWEDISH IDEAS FOR A WINTER SESSION OF THE CCD, ALONG THE LINES

REPORTED REFTEL. THIS WOULD REQUIRE, HE SAID, SHIFTING THE UNGA FIRST COMMITTEE DISARMAMENT DEBATE TO EARLY DURING THE UNGA SESSION, SO THAT CCD COULD MEET THEREAFTER. US REP (FISHER) SAID THERE IS NO REASON THIS CANNOT BE DONE, PROVIDED

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THAT THE COMMITTEE IS READY FOR CW OR CTB NEGOTIATIONS BY THEN, AND THAT MEETINGS BE HELD IN GENEVA RATHER THAN NEW YORK TO MAINTAIN CCD'S INDEPENDENT IMAGE; THE IDEA SHOULD BE KEPT IN MIND AND SHOULD BE DECIDED ON LATER. CANADAIAN REP (JAY) REMARKED ONTMARECKAIUECTINV WITH THE JANUARY SESSION OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE MAY-JUNE 1978 UNGA SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT (SSOD).

6. WITH REGARD TO THE CCD INFORMAL MEETINGS ON NEW MASS DESTRUCTION ON WEAPONS (MDW), PLANNED FOR THE WEEK OF AUG 8-12, REPS OF NETHERLANDS (VAN DER KLAAUW) AND CANADA (JA6) STATED THAT THEIR COUNTRIES WOULD DEFINITELY NOT BE SENDING EXPERTS. REPS OF UK (ASHE), ITALY (DI BERNARDO) AND
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FRG (SCHLAICH) INDICATED THAT THEIR GOVERNMENTS HAD NOT MADE A DECISION ON WHETHER TO SEND EXPERTS, AND ARE WAITING TO HEAR THE PLANS OF OTHERS. UK REP (FISHER) SAID THAT THE US AND USSR WILL BE HOLDING BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS ON RADIOLOGICAL WEAPONS (RW), AND ISSUE RELATED TO MDW, DURING AUG 2-5, HE WOULD RECOMMEND THAT WE SEND AN EXPERT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CCD MDW MEETINGS, BUT DOES NOT HAVE AN OFFICIAL POSITION AT THIS TIME.

7. UK REP (ASHE) SAID IT WOULD BE VERY DESIRABLE TO DISPOSE OF MDW AS A CCD PERENNIAL, AND THAT PERHAPS THIS COULD BEST BE ACHIEVED BY A 32ND UNGA RESOLUTION WHICH STATES THE NEED TO AVOID ANY NEW MDW, MENTIONS RW AS A POSSIBLE INSTANCE, AND ASKS CCD TO REMAIN VIGILANT, TAKING UP THE QUESTION OF NEW MDW WHEN ANY REALISTIC POSSIBILITIES HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED. CANADIAN REP (JAY) EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT A VAGUELY-WORDED RESOLUTION COULD ACTUALLY DISPOSE OF A VAGUE FEAR OF NEW DESTRUCTIVE WEAPONS, WHICH HAS CONSIDERABLE IMPACT AND PROPAGANDA APPEAL; STICKING TO THE WEST'S INSISTENCE ON SPECIFIC CONTENT SEEMED TO HIM TO BE SOUNDER. ITALIAN REP (DI BERNARDO) CALLED THE BRITISH IDEA INTERESTING, BUT SAID THAT FROM NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS OF SOVIET REACTIONS TO US INTENTIONS TO DEVELOP THE NEUTRON BOMB, HE HAS THE PERSONAL IMPRESSION OF CONSIDERABLE SOVIET PRESSURE AND PROPAGANDA IN THE WORKS FOR THE FORTHCOMING MDW MEETINGS.

8. ON THE ATTITUDE OF FRANCE TO HE CCD, NETHERLANDS REP (VAN DER KLAUW) STATED THAT BASED ON HIS RECENT CONVERSATIONS WITH THE FRENCH REP IN GENEVA THERE HAS BEEN NO REAL CHANGE; IF THE US-SOVIET CO-CHAIRMANSHIP OF CCD WERE ABOLISHED, THAT WOULD CREATE A NEW SITUATION WHICH FRANCE WOULD EVALUATE, BUT WOULD NOT AUTOMATICALLY LEAD TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FRENCH PARTICIPATION IN CCD. BESIDES, THE NETHERLANDS REP INDICATED, HE IS SOMEWHAT PUZZLED BY GISCARD D'ESTAING'S REMARK THAT CCD SHOULD BE ABOLISHED. ITALIAN REP (DI BERNARDO) SAID HE BELIEVED IT POLITICALLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT TO MOVE TOWARD CCD PARTICIPATION NOW; #5, PIECE OF THE SITUATION VIS-A-VIS THE GAULLISTS, THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT'S POSITION IS LIKELY TO HARDEN.

9. NETHERLANDS REP (VAN DER KLAUW) ANNOUNCED THAT THE SWEDISH DEL HAS BEEN CONSULTING THE DUTCH DEL WITH A

VIEW TO DEVELOPING A JOINT CTB DRAFT PROTOCOL ON A
CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE WHICH WOULD BE TABLED DURING CCD
INFORMAL MEETINGS ON CTB ISSUES TO BE HELD NEXT WEEK.
THIS COLLABORATION IS OCCURRING BECAUSE OF SIMILAR SWEDISH-
DUTCH EFFORTS DURING 1976 NEGOTIATIONS ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL
MODIFICATION (ENMOD) CONVENTION, THE NETHERLANDS REP SAID,
AND THE HAGUE HAS NOT YET GIVEN FINAL APPROVAL. IF APPROVAL
IS RECEIVED, THE DUTCH REP PROMISED TO PASS COPIES OF THE
DRAFT PROTOCOL TO THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE CCD WESTERN GROUP.
COMMENT: MOOD OF WESTERN GROUP SEEMED TO HAVE IMPROVED BY
END OF MEETING. THEY APPEARED TO APPRECIATE US EXPLANATION
OF RATIONALE FOR HOLDING OFF CCD WORKING GROUP ON CW UNTIL
BASIC ISSUES SETTLED WITH SOVIETS AS NECESSARY TO FACILITATE
THE ACHIEVEMENT OF AN AGREEMENT, ALBEIT AT THE COST OF
SOME FRICTION IN THE CCD. VANDEN HEUVEL

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